

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

Property Name: Canterbury House (preferred), Probable site of Queenstown Jail

Inventory Number: QA-256

Address: 6923 Main Street, Queenstown, Maryland 21658

Owner: David Levie, P.O. Box 279, Queenstown, Maryland 21658

Tax Parcel Number: P.67

Tax Map Number: 51A

Project: MD 018:US 301 to Greenspring Road, Queen Anne's Co. Agency: SHA

Site visit by: SHA Staff: X no \_\_\_ yes Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility recommended X

Eligibility not recommended \_\_\_\_\_

Criteria: X A \_\_\_ B X C \_\_\_ D Considerations: \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D \_\_\_ E \_\_\_ F \_\_\_ G \_\_\_ None

Is property located within a historic district? X no \_\_\_ yes Name of district \_\_\_\_\_

Is district listed? \_\_\_ no \_\_\_ yes

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: (provide name of Report) Project Review and Compliance Files

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)

The two-story brick dwelling located at 6923 Main Street (QA-256) was recorded in the Maryland Historical Trust Inventory of Historic Properties in 1980. This building possesses the qualities of significance under Criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places. Rhodes in his book entitled *Queenstown: The Social History of a Small American Town* (1985) identified the construction date of the house as between 1859 and 1865 during the ownership of Thomas Smyth Willson. This date is supported by the overall architectural design of the dwelling. Thus, the house is among the earliest nineteenth-century building illustrating the development of the town (Criterion

A). The house is a locally-significant intact example of the Italianate style (Criterion C). Important stylistic ornamentation include the elaborate cornice, the belvedere, and the door surround. The building retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

The house was built on the site of the eighteenth-century Queen Anne's County jail. Tradition maintains that a portion of the stone foundation dates to the jail.

Minimal exterior alterations to the building have occurred since 1980. The rear addition, present in 1980, has been resided, and the windows in the addition are modern replacement units. The south elevation porch of the rear addition was enclosed and a one-story polygonal sunroom now connects the enclosed porch to the rear addition.

The property boundary is defined by the current parcel boundaries listed on tax map 51A, parcel 67. The building fronts onto Main Street, and occupies a landscaped lot. Concrete curbing separates the parcel from the street.

Prepared by: Katherine Grandine, Historian/Senior Project Manager, R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc., November 1999

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**

Eligibility recommended X

Eligibility not recommended \_\_\_\_\_

Criteria: \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B X C \_\_\_ D Considerations: \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D \_\_\_ E \_\_\_ F \_\_\_ G \_\_\_ None

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

[Signature]  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

[Signature]  
Reviewer, NR program

12/17/99  
Date

4/27/00  
Date

**PRESERVATION VISION 2000; THE MARYLAND PLAN  
STATEWIDE HISTORIC CONTEXTS****I. Geographic Region:**

- ☒ Eastern Shore (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)  
☐ Western Shore (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)  
☐ Piedmont (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll,  
Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)  
☐ Western Maryland (Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

**II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:**

- ☒ Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815  
☒ Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870  
☐ Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930  
☐ Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present  
☐ Unknown Period ( ☐ prehistoric ☐ historic)

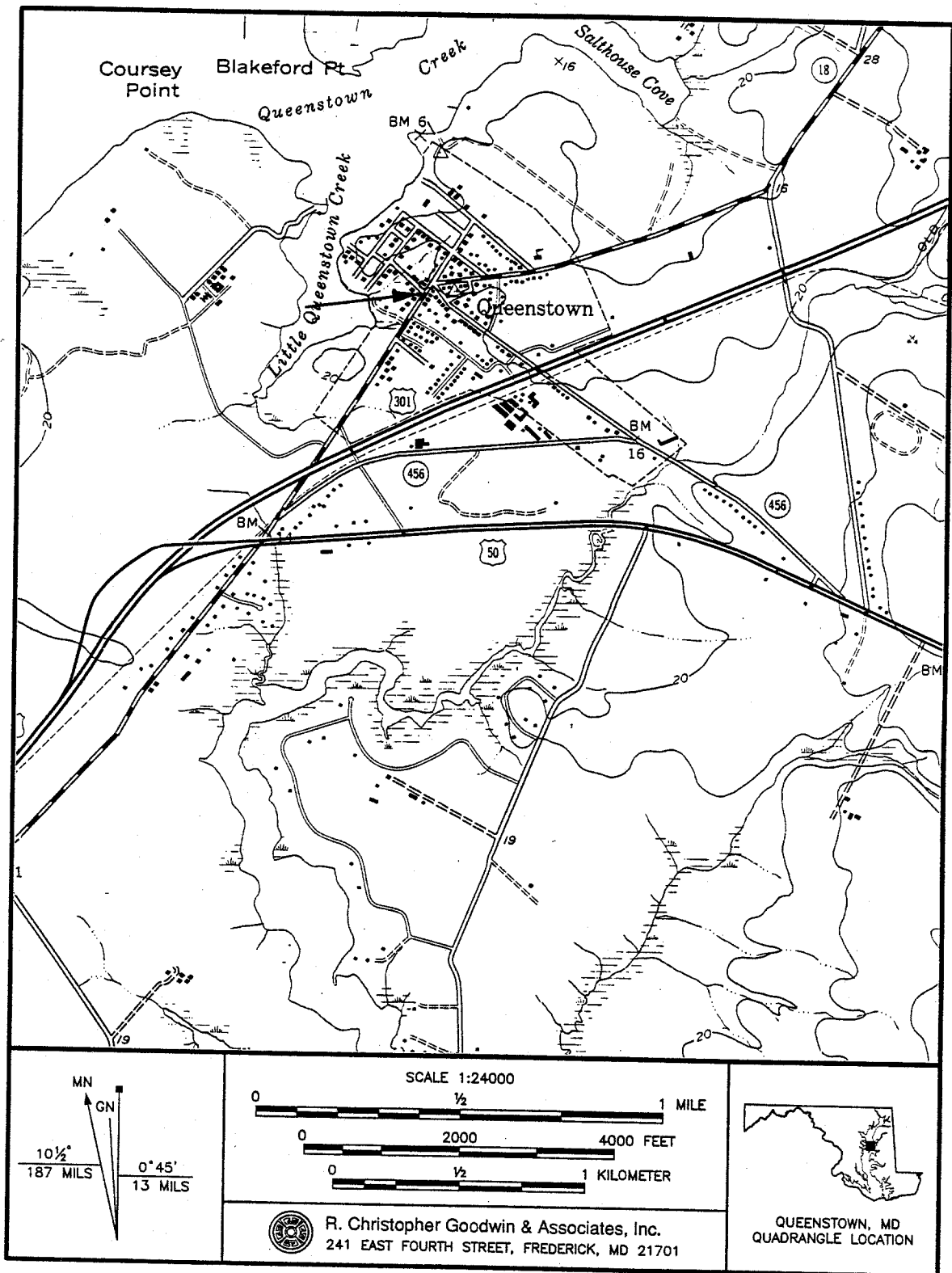
**III. Historic Period Themes:**

- ☐ Agriculture  
☒ Architecture, Landscape Architecture,  
and Community Planning  
☐ Economic (Commercial and Industrial)  
☒ Government/Law  
☐ Military  
☐ Religion  
☐ Social/Educational/Cultural  
☐ Transportation

**IV. Resource Type:**

Category: Building  
Historic Environment: Village  
Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Jail; Domestic  
Known Design Source: Unknown

MHT No. QA-256  
Canterbury House  
Queenstown, Queen Anne's County  
Queenstown Quadrangle Map



QA-256  
Canterbury House  
Queenstown, Queen Anne's County

### INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS

The same is the following for all photographs:

1. inventory #: QA-256
2. historic name: Canterbury House
3. location: Queenstown, Queen Anne's County
4. photographer: P. Giglio
4. date of photograph: November 1999
5. location of negative: MD SHPO

#### Photo #

1. View west
2. View northwest
3. View north
4. View northeast
5. View southeast



'98 1 17

PA-256

Canterbury House

Queenstown, Queen Anne's Co.

P. Giglio

11/1999

MD SHPO

View west

1 of 5

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176



'98 1 17

QA-256

Canterbury House

Queenstown, Queen Anne's Co.

P. Giglio

11/1999

MD SHPO

View northwest

2 of 5

2000 11/19/99 11:11:11 AM 100 1001





1908 1 17

QA-256

Canterbury House

Queenstown, Queen Anne Co.

P. Giglio

11/1999

MD SHPO

View north

3 of 5

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176



'98 1 18

QA-256

Canterbury House

Queenstown, Queen Anne's Co.

P. Gaglio

11/1999

MD SHPO

View northeast

4 of 5



1950-1-17

QA-256

Canterbury House

Queenstown, Queen Anne's Co

P. Giglio

11/1999

MD SHPO

View Southeast

5 of 5

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Probable site of Queenstown Jail

AND/OR COMMON

Canterbury House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Queenstown

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Queen Anne's

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☒ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Sylvia M. Gouldesbrough

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Queenstown

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21658

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Queen Anne's County Courthouse

Liber #: MWM 161

Folio #: 440

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland 21617

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

QA-256

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Canterbury House, often referred to as the "Queenstown Jail", is located on the southwest corner of the center square in Queenstown, facing old Route 18. This mid-19th century brick house is believed to stand on the stone foundations of the original Queenstown Jail, built about 1709.

The house was built in several successive stages. The main section consists of a two story, three bay dwelling with a two story brick wing on the south gable.

The front facade of the main house is laid in seven-course bond above a plain two-course belt course serving as a watertable. There is a paneled entrance door in the left bay with side-lights and a five-light transom, two 6/6 windows to the left of the door and three 6/6 windows on the second floor. The window openings have splayed jack arch lintels; the door is set off by molded pilasters supporting a bracketed door hood. A handsome bracketed cornice is carried across the facade below a low-pitched gable roof. Centered on the roof ridge is a widow's walk with square corner posts, scrolled panels between two horizontal

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY



## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.1 DESCRIPTION

rails, and simple brackets below the edge of the deck.

A flush brick chimney is centered on the north gable; a pair of small windows flank the chimney in the upper gable. The brickwork is laid in seven-course bond, but is not bonded into the front facade brickwork, which turns the corner and forms a pilaster at the northeast corner of the building. The front cornice returns at the corner. The brackets turn the corner, but do not continue up the gable eave.

On the rear facade there is a door in the right bay with two 6/6 windows to the left and three 6/6 on the second floor. The second floor window above the door is downset to allow for the interior stair landing, and is located slightly to the left of the present door. A seam in the brickwork to the right of the door suggests that the door has been shifted to the left. This wall is also laid in seven-course bond, with a plain unbracketed cornice. The first floor windows on both facades have wood shutters with the lower half paneled and the upper half louvered. The second floor shutters are louvered.

The brick wing projects from the south gable of the main house and is set back about 13 inches from

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.2 DESCRIPTION

the front facade. It is laid in seven-course bond with no watertable. The quality of this work is poor in comparison to the main house. A single 6/6 window is centered on each floor of the front facade. The box cornice has a deep soffit similar to the main house but with a crown and bed mold instead of brackets. The tin roof matches the main roof in pitch but the ridge is approximately two feet lower.

There is a flush brick chimney centered on the south gable flanked by a pair of 6/6 windows on the first and second floor. The front cornice returns at the gable and is carried up the gable eaves. The rear facade of the wing is covered by a later frame addition.

The interior of the main house consists of a parlor to the north and a stair hall to the south. The stair rises against the south gable wall to a landing at the rear. It is an open string stair with a heavy turned newel at the base, two delicately turned ballusters per step, and a plain rail. The rail is continuous to the second floor, uninterrupted by the plain, square section newel at the top. Scrolled brackets embellish the stair ends, and a scrolled strapwork design decorates the soffit of the landing.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.3 DESCRIPTION

Evidence in the exterior brickwork indicates that the rear door has been shifted slightly to the north, if so the present stair may also have been altered, as it interferes with the earlier door opening. The parlor is heated by a fireplace on the north gable. The mantel is Victorian, with molded pilasters, a plain frieze with applied diamond panels, and a heavy molded shelf. The window and door architraves are plain, while the four-panel doors have flattened ogee panel molds typical of the mid-19th century.

The second floor plan is similar, but the east end of the stair hall has been partitioned to form a small unheated chamber which opens into the second floor of the wing as well as onto the stair landing of the main house. Interior trim is very simple, with beaded edges on the inner edge of all architrave trim.

The roof framing includes reused common rafters from an earlier and more steeply pitched gable roof. The rafters originally had half-lapped collar beams, but now are simply mitred and nailed at the ridge. A window in the south gable has been covered by the later brick wing. Inscribed in rough plaster rendering on the south gable wall is the date "December 5, 1857".

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.4 DESCRIPTION

The interior of the wing consists of a single room on each floor, with no direct access between floors. The first floor now serves as a combined kitchen dining room. A fireplace on the south gable wall has been bricked up. A door in the rear wall leads to the rear frame wing. The floor level of this room is level with the main house, but on the second story the floor is two steps lower than the main house. This second floor chamber is also connected to the rear wing by a door in the west wall.

The rear addition is of frame construction, two stories high with a pitched gable roof. It was built in two separate stages, and the roof of the last addition is turned perpendicular to the earlier section.

Potentially the most important feature of the house is the stone foundation below the brick wing and the majority of the frame section. This now forms a cellar under that section of the house. It is slightly more than 14 feet wide by 33 feet long (inside dimensions), and is constructed of rough granite, probably brought from the Susquehanna Valley. Excavations by Reverend Edward B. Carley have exposed

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.5 DESCRIPTION

a second foundation of local fieldstone that extends from the north wall of the granite foundation. This runs underneath of the 1857 brick house, and has been traced through the crawl space below the main house. Documentary evidence has yet to positively identify this structure, but strongly reinforces the local tradition that this is the site of the early 18th century jail.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

QA-256

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1857

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Canterbury House is one of the most notable pre-Civil War buildings surviving in the center of Queenstown. The main house was probably constructed in 1857, and displays a handsome Italianate bracketed cornice and widow's walk. Of at least equal significance is the stone foundation under the south section of the house, which is believed to be the remnants of the first Queenstown jail, constructed in the early 18th century.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# **9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Emory, Frederick. Queen Anne's County, Maryland.  
Baltimore, 1950.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# **10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

# **11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE	
Orlando Ridout V, Historic Sites Surveyor	
ORGANIZATION	DATE
Queen Anne's County Historical Society	4/24/80
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
CITY OR TOWN	STATE
Centreville	Maryland

Field Note Book QA-X, Recorded July 3, 1979.

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438





QA-256  
Canterbury House

Mary McCarthy  
Spring/Summer 2003  
Digital color photo on file at MHT





QA-256

Canterbury House  
Queenstown, Maryland  
Orlando Ridout V 1979  
Front facade



QA-256    Canterbury House  
          Queenstown, Maryland  
          Orlando Ridout V 1979  
          Rear facade



in Queenstown Bay

256

QA-256

Canterbury House

Queenstown, MD

James W. Valliant

1974





in Queenstown papers

QA-256

Canterbury House

Queenstown, MD

James W. Valliant

1974